

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's objections to Claim 3 because of informalities, rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for failure to comply with the enabling requirement, and rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for being indefinite, Claim 3 has been canceled. A new Claim 4 has been added to make the language of Claim 4 coherent with a revised Specification, Drawing, Explanation of the Drawing, and Detailed Description of the Invention, and structured to render definite the claim language per 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

MPEP § 608.01(b) Objection to Specification

2. *The Specification is objected to because Page 53, line 10 ("Brief Description of The Drawing") recites "The appended drawing is a...". **This line should recite "FIG. 1 is a ...".***

The correction has been made per the examiner's suggestion pursuant to the options offered in Action 3. as "FIGURE 1" attached in this response.

2. *The Specification is objected to because Page 53, line 10 ("Brief Description of The Drawing") recites "The appended drawing is a...". This line should recite "FIG. 1 is a ...". Also, **the drawing figure is not described in the Specification in relation to the elements** (i.e., Investment Capital, Pooled Risk Management, Insurance Function, etc.) in the drawing figure. Correction is required.*

The examiner's exception is with regard to incoherence between the terminology in the Specification (the terms were contextual applications of essential elements) and the Drawing (FIGURE 1) which represents the structural relationships of those elements.

A glossary has been appended to the Brief Description of the Drawing with a list of remaining synonyms used in the revised Specification. The entire Specification has been edited to minimize the number of synonyms for the purpose of specificity and clarity. A black-line document comparing the original submission with this response has also been provided.

37 CFR 1.121(d) Objection to Drawings

3. *The drawings are objected to because the drawing figure should be labeled "FIG. 1" or "FIGURE 1". ...*

The drawing in the new file has been labeled "FIGURE 1".

... Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

The drawing sheet submitted with this response has been labeled

"Replacement Sheet".

NOTE ON THE DRAWING:

The drawing now labeled, "Replacement Sheet," more resembles the original drawing in the provisional application as well as the PCT application made approximately a year after the original non-provisional application. The elements on the drawing in the non-provisional application it replaces were judged as incorporated in existing elements and were therefore more a source of confusion than means to clarify the drawing.

35 USC § 112 Claim Objections

4. *Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: The preamble recites "A process for developing an ecosystem asset management method, comprising the steps of:". The preamble would be better recited as "A method for developing an ecosystem asset management, the method comprising the steps of:". Appropriate correction is required.*

Applicant can make the change the examiner wants here, but questions whether the examiner meant to say "an ecosystem asset management **process**" as opposed to using the term "an ecosystem asset management" as if it were a noun. Accordingly, in light of the general request of the examiner that claims be consistent with the definitions in the Specification, the correction reads as follows: "A method for developing a natural

process asset management process, the method comprising the steps of:”. The language of Claim 4 has been submitted accordingly.

35 USC § 112 Claim Rejections

6. *The Specification and the claim limitations of Claim 3 are not in agreement.*

The examiner’s Rejection cites incoherence between the terminology in the Specification and Claim 3 which represents an application of those elements.

Accordingly, a new Claim 4 has been provided and the specification has been edited to minimize the number of synonyms for the purpose of coherence, specificity, and clarity. A glossary with a list of remaining synonyms found in the revised Specification and their relation to the Drawing has been appended to the Brief Description of the Drawing. A revised Drawing has also been provided that is coherent with the Claim 4 and the Specification. A black-line document comparing the original submission with this response has also been provided to facilitate examination for new or unrelated matter not found in the original non-provisional specification.

6. *Applicants’ are respectfully requested to map each of the claim limitations to the pages and line number(s) in the Specification which support each claim limitation as evidence of such support, if Applicants’ believe the claim limitations are supported by the Specification. Otherwise the new matter must be canceled.*

Applicant has supplied a supplemental addendum to this reply, CLAIMS WITH REFERENCES TO THE SPECIFICATION. Claim 4 is listed therein with line number references to the Specification.

8. *Claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.*

Objection was made with regard to “wherein” clauses in Claim 3 that rendered it indefinite. The new Claim 4 has been provided without “wherein” clauses per the

examiner's suggestion. The new Claim 4 relies upon terms found in both the revised Specification and the FIGURE 1 Replacement Sheet.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the Specification, Drawing, and Claim objections and Claim rejections and allow the pending Specification, Drawing, and Claim.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E. Vande Pol', written in a cursive style.

Mark E. Vande Pol

9/5/07